Dear Students, Future Students, Alumni, Colleagues, Friends, and Family …

Please allow me to welcome you to the Department of History at Texas Tech University!

It probably sounds like a cliché, but I sincerely believe that our department is a special place. I’ve been honored to serve as Chair of History since 2014. I am also a proud alumnus.

Our faculty consistently publishes fresh, innovative, and disruptive research with some of the best presses in the world. We have also won numerous teaching awards, both collectively as a department and individually, as scholars, educators, and mentors. We routinely serve more than 5,000 undergraduate students each semester, nearly 400 of whom are majors, with an additional 300 minors and area concentrations. Our graduate program is robust, with nearly 90 students, the majority of whom receive full-time funding. In short, we’re a big program.

And yet, what makes this department special is not its size, but its collegiality and commitment to individual engagement. State universities are always competing to increase numbers. Texas Tech is no different. But while our department recognizes the need to train the next generation of educators in a state that is rapidly growing, we also recognize that one-to-one attention remains critical to a student’s overall success. No matter how fast or how big our world grows, the Department of History is committed to treating everyone like the uniquely made person they are. We are committed to diversity in all forms – race, class, gender, sexuality, spirituality, and thought. We are an open community that encourages dialogue and seeks to understand our fellow humans and communities – local, state, national, and international. We are committed to excellence, and we are committed to providing everyone with a standard of experience that reinforces the intrinsic value of every tribe, tongue, and nation.

I often tell people that history is the study of who we are and why we are the way we are. It’s the story of us. It’s the story of humanity. It’s the story of conflict and reconciliation, peace and war, love and hatred, and progress. Our department welcomes anyone who seeks these things and does so in the spirit of genuine interest and the goal of making the world a better place.

Everyone is welcome. Please never hesitate to contact me should you have any questions about anything. We have an amazing staff that is ready and willing to help.

Sincerely,

Sean P. Cunningham, Ph.D.
Associate Professor and Chair
Department of History
Texas Tech University